

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 OPR-02 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /055 W
----- 124329

O R 252305Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 956

INFOO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, US, NU

SUBJECT: FRASER SUB-COMMITTEE: FATHER CARDENAL

REF: MANAGUA 3933

1. FATHER FRANCISCO CARDENAL MET WITH POLOFF TODAY. HE STATED HE KNOWS OF NO SPECIAL PUNITIVE ACTION PLANNED AGAINST HIM AT PRESENT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH FRASER SUB-COMMITTEE BUT SAID HE DID NOT FURNISH INFORMATION UPON WHICH RECENT FRASER STATEMENT WAS BASED. HE THOUGHT SOURCE MUST HAVE HAD INCOMPLETE INFORMATION RE HIS CONDITION.

2. SPECIFICALLY HE STATED HE UNDERSTOOD ONE DEAN OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (UNAN) WHERE HE TEACHES HAD PROPOSED HE BE FIRED FOR HIS TESTIMONY BUT SUGGESTION HAD RECEIVED NO SUPPORT. FURTHER, HE STATED HE BELIEVES CONGRESSIONAL CENSURE ISSUE HAS DIED DOWN. HE EXPRESSED LACK OF ANXIETY ON EITHER FRONT.

3. REGARDING TESTIMONY AGAINST U.S. PROGRAMS IN NICARAGUA, CARDENAL STATED HE HAD READ CLARIFICATION BY EMBASSY OF MILITARY OPERATIONS AND CONCEDED HE MAY HAVE HAD SOME MIS-IMPRESSIONS. HE WAS STILL CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT U.S. PROGRAMS DIRECTLY
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OR INDIRECTLY BENEFITED SOMOZA.

?. EMBASSY COMMENT: FATHER CARDENAL IS CAPABLE OF TELLING THE FRASER COMMITTEE ONE THING AND THE EMBASSY ANOTHER, AS HE HAS DEMONSTRATED AFTER CONTACT WITH EMBASSY POLOFF PRIOR TO HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON IN JUNE. UNLIKE MAJORITY OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN NICARAGUA, CARDENAL IS POLITICAL ACTIVIST IN THE ANTI-SOMOZA STRUGGLE. HE APPEARS TO BE A MAN WHO WILL BELIEVE WHAT HE WANTS TO BELIEVE AND WHERE ALTERNATIVE INTERPRETATIONS ARE FEASIBLE, HE WILL SELECT THOSE WHICH DISCREDIT PRESIDENT SOMOZA AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.
THEBERGE

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: SHUM, US, NU, (FRAZER, DONALD), (CARDENAL, FRANCISCO)
To: STATE GUATEMALA
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